

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF AMERICAN  
VETERANS**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 25, 2001*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, On Monday, Americans throughout our great Nation will pause to honor those men and women who nobly sacrificed their lives to protect the safety and liberty of their fellow citizens.

Originally designated as "Decoration Day" to honor Veterans of the Civil War, and first observed on May 30, 1868, or modern Memorial Day now recognizes those one-million, three hundred and twelve-thousand, eight-hundred and ten heroes who died in defense of our Country in one or more of her conflicts: the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Persian Gulf War.

To the extent that we now enjoy the many rights inherent in a democracy, as well as those freedoms and benefits that we as a self-governing people bestow upon ourselves and our posterity, we owe great thanks to those defenders of democracy who died in war, so that we might live in peace.

We should also take time on this Memorial Day to honor all those Americans who have ever served in our Armed Forces, and to those great Americans who continue to volunteer to defend our Nation to this day. Without their continued commitment, courage and contributions, we would not enjoy the opportunity to be here, in this great land, reveling in the freedom that their noble deeds have allowed us to celebrate.

We should also take time today to reaffirm our commitment to our soldiers and our veterans: all men and women who voluntarily serve their Nation in the Armed Forces have earned the greatest respect, courtesy, and care that we can provide, and we as a Congress should never hesitate to deliver those benefits to our Veterans.

As we welcome this new Memorial Day in America, in peace and democracy, we solemnly acknowledge that the sacrifices of our Veterans have not been in vain, and will never be forgotten.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBBINS AIR  
FORCE TANKERS**HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 25, 2001*

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize the 99th Air Refueling Squadron from Warner Robbins, Georgia. They were recently

named as the military's top tanker group for the third consecutive year.

The "Ramrods," part of the 19th Air Refueling group, are the only unit in the Air Force's 50 year history to win the General Carl A. Spatz Trophy for three consecutive years. Since 1975, this trophy has recognized the best air refueling squadron within the Air Force.

This refueling group has worked hard to earn this prestigious, national award. They were one of the most needed tanker groups in 2000. The "Ramrods" flew air refueling missions on every major deployment last year. Along with these deployment missions they had to carry out their normal exercises and long term troop commitments to areas such as the middle east.

The Warner Robbins 99th squadron was called upon to fly top-ranking Air Force and civilian officials around the globe, and they provided refueling support to military units in the Middle East after last fall's horrible terrorist attack on the USS *Cole*. The National Defense University selected the squadron to represent the Air Force on four high visibility missions around the world.

It is easy to see that these missions are very important in the military strength that this nation enjoys. This group is to be congratulated for their hard work, skill, and accomplishments in the Air Force.

TRIBUTE TO THE PARISH OF ST.  
ELIZABETH SETON**HON. JAMES H. MALONEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 25, 2001*

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on May 29th, 2001, a celebration will occur in my congressional district that is most noteworthy, and that I wish to bring to the attention of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives. On this very special day, the Parish of St. Elizabeth Seton in the Town of Ridgefield, Connecticut will celebrate its 25th Anniversary.

With the population of Roman Catholic families growing in the 1970's, it was clear that there was a need for a new parish in the Ridgebury section of Ridgefield. Father Francis Medynski was appointed by Bishop Walter Curtis to re-configure the then existing parish of St. Mary's. After nearly two years of planning and consultation, Fr. Medynski's task was completed and he was named Pastor of the new St. Elizabeth Seton parish in April, 1976.

The new church had to make due with precious, few resources, calling on parishioners for every type of service. For example, everyone pitched in for a daylong cleaning effort of the temporary rectory/parish center on May 18, 1976.

In the beginning, the church met at the Ridgebury Elementary School, but it was clear from the start that the construction of a permanent church home was necessary. Efforts began immediately. Committees were established to hire architects and contractors, fundraising events were organized and parish programs were set. And, at last, on September 20, 1977, the church's official groundbreaking took place. Construction was steady, and a little over a year later, on December 23, 1978, the first Mass in the new sanctuary was celebrated. The formal dedication occurred on May 29, 1979.

Over the past 25 years, the church has continued to grow. The 371 original families in the parish have grown to approximately 1,000. The Religious Education program has expanded to the point of needing to build a new Parish Center that was dedicated in October, 1988. The Center also houses the church administrative offices and includes several meeting rooms for parish use.

In 1996, Fr. Medynski retired, and Father Joseph Prince then came to lead the church, which he has done with dedication and distinction.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting to honor all the parishioners and church leadership alike who have contributed a guiding hand in the creation and growth of the Parish of St. Elizabeth Seton. Today, we celebrate their commitment to their faith, a commitment measured not only words but in their inspiring deeds. On behalf of the Congress of the United States, I extend our congratulations to St. Elizabeth Seton Parish and wish all God's blessings in the years ahead.

IN HONOR OF ASIAN PACIFIC  
AMERICAN MONTH**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 25, 2001*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. I am proud to honor the diverse Asian Pacific American community I represent in San Francisco, which includes people whose heritage spans the globe—including Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai and Hmong.

The Asian Pacific American population is growing at rapid rates nationally and this trend has been particularly significant in the Eighth Congressional District of California. The Asian Pacific American population in San Francisco has increased by 5.3% during the 1990's. The District I am honored to represent now has the fourth highest Asian Pacific American population of any U.S. congressional district.

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